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LIVING STANDARDS OF FARMERS IN NORTHEAST RISE;
CHEKIANG WOMEN TAKE UP FARM WORK

FARM BUILDINGS, ANIMALS INCREASE -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 8 Sep 50

Mukden, 7 September (Hsin-hua) -- During the 2 or 3 years since land reform was completed in certain sections of the Northeast, the amount of building done in these areas has greatly increased. In 5,000 villages of Liaotung Province, 80,000 chien /a chien is a room, usually considered to be 10 x 10 feet/ of new farm buildings have been erected during the last 2 years. In one ch'u of Kirin Province 1,500 chien were built during the spring of 1950. Not only dwellings but barns and granaries are continually being built. Whereas, heretofore several families were living in one room, the families, now having their own land, are able to have separate dwellings.

The increased prosperity is also evident in the increased number of work animals. Last year, in Liaotung Province, according to incomplete data, 170,000 work animals were added. In some areas, every family has added a horse since the land reform. Likewise farm implements and carts are greatly increasing in number. Farmers now use rubber-tired carts universally in the Northeast.

The change in the social classification of the farmers is notable. In an investigation recently conducted in 21 selected villages of 16 different hsien, farm laborers who, before the land reform, made up one half of the farm population, have now become middle-class farmers and well-to-do middle-class farmers. Aside from one percent of former poor farmers, who now have a lower standard of living, 51 percent of former poor farmers have raised their standard of living; 17.1 percent of former middle-class farmers now have a higher standard of living. Of the farming class as a whole, 62.7 percent have experienced a rise in their standard of living since the land reform. Middle class and well-to-do middle class farmers have increased from 16 percent to 53.8 percent of the total farm population. In 15 villages in eight different hsien of Liaotung Province, middle-class farm families increased from 319 to 2,748.

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CHEKIANG WOMEN ENGAGE IN FARM LABOR -- Hangchow Chekiang Jih-pao, 27 Jun 50

Education and practical considerations are breaking down the traditional aversion of Chekiang farm women to working in the fields. In many villages, up to 75 percent of the women are doing field work, releasing men to heavier tasks. The farm work is thus being advanced in the season by as much as 2 weeks.

The women are also taking up supplementary industries to aid their economy. They find that by weaving rush baskets and grass mats they can earn up to one liter of rice per day, which is a sizable addition to the family budget.

TO INITIATE INVESTIGATION OF AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 12 Aug 50

The authorities of Kwangtung Province have issued a directive governing the procedures for taking an agricultural census of the province. The census is to include information on population, amount of land under cultivation, types and quality of soil, agricultural animal data, etc. It is believed the census can be carried out in connection with the summer public grain collection.

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